

- 1 MAY 1945

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1944.PORT OF COLCHESTER HEALTH AUTHORITY.

- I. Number of vessels entering the Port during the year 1944. Total  
 Brightlingsea only - 188    Proceeding to Colchester: 251    =    439

In the Annual Report for 1943 I reported that it had been impossible to appoint a Sanitary Inspector for the Port until the end of the year. Mr. R. Boast, the Sanitary Inspector of Brightlingsea was then appointed to the position of Port Sanitary Inspector also. He commenced his duties in the Port on 1st February, 1944, and has continued in this position since that date.

TABLE A.

Number of vessels inspected by the Medical Officer of Health -	-	2
Number of vessels inspected by the Sanitary Inspector	-	50
Number of vessels reported to be defective	-	3

The defects consisted of leaky deck seams, dirty living quarters and inadequate water supply also broken skylight, defective bulkhead and defective floor boards in forecastle. This was in a sailing barge. In a motor vessel the port-holes were leaky and in another sailing barge the drinking water storage tank was inadequate.

Other defects to which attention was drawn were dirty bedding, leaky port-holes and no stove in the cabin aft.

Attention was drawn to these various defects and the Masters undertook to have them seen to at the earliest opportunity and in the case of bedding that it should be more frequently washed.

II. Character of Trade of Port -

Only coastal trade has been carried on during the past year. The vessels consist of Thames barges and motor or steam coasters working from the Ports of London, Hull, Bristol, Ipswich, etc.

Cargoes consisted of coal, gravel, wheat, flour, hardcore, bricks and similar commodities.

The only foreign vessels inspected were Dutch coasters which have been working between British Ports during the war.

TABLES C. & D.

- III. A boy was removed from one vessel as a doubtful case of Diphtheria. He was taken to the Colchester Borough Isolation Hospital and there found to be suffering from Influenza.
- IV. Approximately 360 rats have been killed in premises abutting on the Port. This calculation is made on the basis that the "pick-up" is equal to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total killed, i.e. 120 dead rats have been picked up since the appointment of the Sanitary Inspector.

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